

ULVERSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1953.

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October, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Preliminary Census, 1951	10,076
- Registrar-General's Estimate of home population mid-1953	10,160
Number of inhabited houses	3,153
Rateable value	£ 65,746
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£256

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dress-making and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principle vital statistics for 1953 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

Of the 139 births registered during 1953, 74 were male of which 3 were illegitimate and 65 were female, 7 of which were illegitimate.

Approximately 69% of deaths were of persons 65 years of age or over and the principle causes of death were:- Heart diseases 46, Intracranial vascular lesions 24 and malignant growths 23.

The adjusted death rate for the District after correction for age and sex distribution is the lowest yet recorded and compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

At the other end of the scale the adjusted birth rate is also the lowest so far recorded and is appreciably lower than that for the country as a whole.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality				
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	Total		Neo Natal		
									No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	
1953	139	x 13.7	126	x 12.4	3	21	Nil	Nil	4	29	3	22	
1952	153	15.2	128	12.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	5	33	1	7	
1951	138	13.9	155	15.6	2	14	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7	
1950	158	15.9	147	14.8	3	19	Nil	Nil	7	44	2	13	
1949	175	17.9	140	14.4	2	11	Nil	Nil	4	23	-	-	
1948	165	16.7	127	12.8	4	23	Nil	Nil	6	36	-	-	
Average 5 years 1948- 1952.	-	15.9	-	14.0	-	16	-	-	-	29	-	5	

^xAdjusted(Live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.05) = 14.4 per 1,000.
(Death-rate = (comparability factor, 0.88) = 10.9 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.	160 Smaller towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.	Ulverston Urban District.
	Birth Rate. Death Rate.	Birth Rate. Death Rate.	Adjusted Birth Rate. Death Rate.
1949	16.7 11.7	18.0 11.6	18.8 12.7
1950	15.8 11.6	16.7 11.6	16.9 13.2
1951	15.5 12.5	16.7 12.5	14.6 13.7
1952	15.3 11.3	15.5 11.2	16.0 11.2
1953	15.5 11.4	15.7 11.3	14.4 10.9

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District, Grange-over-
Sands Urban District,
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1,
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

C. T. HAGUE, Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate; R. S. I.

Other Appointments Held:-

Engineer and Surveyor -
Ulverston Urban District
Council.
Manager - Water Undertaking,
Ulverston Urban District
Council.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:-

J. K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate
Certificate R. S. I.,
Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water-works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand-filtered before storage in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

The exceptional dry spell during Spring and early Summer necessitated strict economy in the use of water for domestic purposes and consumers were requested to limit their demands to essential requirements.

One chemical analysis and three bacteriological analyses of the water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results.

At the end of the year 3077 houses had a supply direct from the mains and another 60 were supplied by stand pipes. During the year three existing houses were newly connected to the mains, in place of stand pipes, in addition to 110 new dwellings. No change occurred in supplies from private sources.

Extensions to the mains were laid to Croftlands Park Housing Estate.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The new scheme prepared by your Surveyor and the County Surveyor, and which has been mentioned in previous reports, was about 90% complete by the end of the year.

A further scheme designed to obviate periodic flooding in certain parts of the town, and to prevent the premature discharge of storm water overflows is in the course of preparation.

At 31st December, 1953 there were 3100 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 3550 water closets. During the year the only remaining trough closets in the district, at one of the schools, were converted to water closets. It is satisfactory to report that all the schools in the district now have water closets and drainage to the public sewers, with a supply of water from the public mains.

Housing.

Good progress has been maintained in the building of houses on Croftlands Park, the Council having erected 100 houses during the year. In addition 10 houses were erected by private builders in other parts of the town.

It is expected that slum clearance will be restarted in the near future but even now it is apparent that it will present a problem of some magnitude. There is a considerable number of houses which were considered for demolition in 1939 but which will require resurveying since their condition has sometimes altered, perhaps for better, perhaps for worse. The condition of others has deteriorated so much in the past 15 years that they will also need to be considered.

Statistics.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	125
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	342
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1936.	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	7
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	50

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	34
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Action under statutory powers during the year:-

1.		Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-	
	(i)	By owners	Nil
	(ii)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	7
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(i)	By owners	7
	(ii)	By local authority in default of owners.	Nil
3.		Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil

4. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (a) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil
- (b) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The great increase in the number of infectious diseases notified, is due entirely to the outbreak of measles during the first quarter of the year. In this district measles has shown a triennial periodity since 1944.

Two houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour following tuberculosis and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow.

Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953		
						Number of cases.	Removed to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever.	33	17	15	5	11	13	9	0
Diphtheria	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	1	0	208	16	7	298	0	0
Whooping cough.	0	46	30	32	37	0	0	0
Pneumonia.	8	6	0	0	0	1	1	0
Polio-myelitis.	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Polio-encephalitis.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	42	74	253	54	57	312	10	0

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1953.

Age Periods Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4		0		0		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston residents during the past twelve years.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1942	7	5	4	7	3	3	0	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	9	7	5	6	1	2	1	0
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	0	0
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	10	12	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	64	79	2	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951.

No action was necessary under section 47 (as amended) during the year.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary
Inspector for the year 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to the 31st December, 1953.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. Disposal of the refuse has been by controlled tipping at Tebay Lane. Treatments have been carried out to prevent infestations by rodents and insects and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine treatments of the sewers, sewage works, controlled tip and beck courses have been carried out and no major infestation of rats or mice has been found on the Council's property.

Anti-coagulant poison baiting by the use of Warfarin has largely been used and proved satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the treatments undertaken:-

Private Houses - 46
Business Premises - 18
Local Authority Property - 16
Agricultural Property - 2

HOUSING.

There are still a number of houses which are unfit for habitation and can not be rendered totally fit at any expense. It is hoped that a new housing survey may be completed in the near future and that in conjunction with proposed new legislation, organised slum clearance may be put into operation.

Eight houses at the junction of Chapel Street and the Ellers were demolished by the owner at the beginning of the year. This was as a result of a report to the owner after the front wall of six of the houses was found to be unsafe.

Three houses in Canal Street were repaired and made habitable by the owner who had previously agreed not to re-let until certain essential work was completed.

Undertakings not to re-let for habitation in their present unfit state have been accepted from the owners of the following houses:-

54, Brewery Street
44, Cross Ellers
2, Bells Yard
25, Canal Street.

During the year plans covering the erection of 16 private dwellings were approved. Seven plans dealing with the conversion or improvement of existing dwellings were also given approval.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

958 inspections and re-inspections have been made following the receipt of complaints or investigation of nuisances and their subsequent abatement.

Below is a summary of the cases abated by serving informal notices:-

Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse - 3.
Defective roofs - 15.
Defective spouting and guttering - 10.
Dampness from other causes - 10.
Inadequate water supply - 3.
Defective condition of drains - 14.
Defective or insanitary closets - 7.
Verminous premises - 9.
Miscellaneous nuisances - 10.

Cases dealt with by serving Statutory Notices:-

Premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance - 7.

Atmospheric pollution.

The harmful effects of smoke on the public's health has again been stressed and the aim is now to reduce the general level of pollution by preventing the emission of all unnecessary smoke and the institution of a Clean Air Campaign. The largest single producer of smoke is the domestic consumer and the creation of smokeless zones, such as Croftlands Estate would be a step towards a purer atmosphere.

There are seven factory chimneys in the district and smoke observations are taken at frequent intervals to time the emission of any black smoke. Contact has been maintained with the industries concerned and has been rewarded by the limited amount of atmospheric pollution and willingness to assist in this direction.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, MEAT INSPECTION.

Centralised slaughter for Ulverston, Ulverston Rural District and Grange Urban District is still carried out under Ministry of Food arrangements at the privately owned slaughterhouse in the Gill, Ulverston.

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 9352 & of these, 297 carcasses and offals were totally condemned as unfit for food. 424 animals were admitted for slaughter under casualty procedure, 24% of which proved to be unfit for food.

The number of pigs slaughtered during the year was greater than the total number of pigs slaughtered here during the past five years. It was evident that a larger portion of ration meat had to be made up with pork, but equipment, provided for this work, is very primitive and unsuitable for coping with such an increasing number.

The Ministry of Food's Memorandum on the methods and criteria of meat inspection, in substitution of those contained in Memo 62/ Foods of March 1922, came into operation on 1st February, 1953. The provision relating to acceptance of carcasses of animals killed at places other than a slaughterhouse has proved beneficial in so far as it is possible to acquire the reason for slaughter and particulars of any drugs which had been administered and which might affect the carcass.

Number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1953	1363	1107	5915	967	9352
1952	1391	1250	6521	371	9533
1951	1656	1354	4826	253	8089
1950	1558	1494	5826	82	8960
1949	1211	1456	6579	128	9374

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed.	852	511	1107	5915	967
Number Inspected.	852	511	1107	5915	967

All diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole Carcases condemned.....	5	15	210	48	6
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	41	149	-	43	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.....	5.4%	32.1%	19%	1.5%	3%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole Carcases condemned.....	3	7	1	-	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	72	112	-	-	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	8.8%	23.3%	0.09%	-	1.8%

Causes of Condemnation.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, generalised	10	-	-	2	12
Tuberculosis, congenital	-	1	-	-	1
Anaemia, advanced	-	1	-	-	1
Bruising, extensive and severe	2	4	7	-	13
Emaciation, pathological	2	-	4	-	6
Fever	2	-	1	1	4
Immaturity	-	126	-	-	126
Jaundice	-	5	1	-	6
Mastitis, septic	4	-	1	-	5
Pleurisy, septic	-	-	1	-	1
Oedema, generalised	2	2	21	-	25
Pericarditis, septic	1	-	-	-	1
Peritonitis, septic	2	5	1	2	10
Pneumonia, septic	-	2	2	-	4
Pyaemia, including joint-ill	1	44	3	1	49
Septicaemia or toxaemia	2	1	2	-	5
Swine erysipelas	-	-	-	1	1
Tetanus	1	-	-	-	1
Tumours, multiple	-	1	-	1	2
Uraemia	-	1	1	-	2
Other causes	1	18	3	-	22
	30	211	48	8	297

Arrangements whereby all weak and small calves are directed from the local auction to the slaughterhouse continued during the year and largely accounts for the number of carcasses subsequently condemned for immaturity.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The food trader's practice of voluntarily surrendering unsound food-stuffs has again been carried out and the undermentioned food was taken as being unfit for human consumption. Such co-operation minimises the danger of food poisoning and eliminates formal seizure procedure under the Food and Drugs Act.

Ham, cooked meats, sausages and bacon	471 lbs.
Butter, cheese and milk powder	31 lbs.
Frozen eggs	28 lbs.
Meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.	859 tins.
Sauces, sandwich spreads etc.	287 jars
Jelly, barley powder, etc.	368 packets.
Chocolates and chocolate biscuits	75 lbs.
Salad Cream	7 gallons.

FOOD SHOPS AND PREMISES.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year:-

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Grocers, butchers, fish and provision shops	104
Bakehouses	13
Preserved Food Manufacturing premises	3
Industrial canteens	6
Fried Fish Shops	4
Cafes, restaurants	15
Ice-cream manufacturing premises	2

Number of food premises, by type, registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

Type of Business	No. Registered	No. of inspections of premises during year.
Manufacture and sale of pork products.....	3	13
Butchers shops for manufacture and sale of sausage, brawn, etc....	5	19
Manufacture and sale of ice-cream.....	20	45

All other food shops and premises are inspected at frequent intervals, some 267 visits having been made for this purpose. The general hygienic conditions are satisfactory and only isolated instances arose where the occupier's attention had to be drawn to failure to comply with the regulations. Informal action was taken under the Clean Food By-laws against a trader failing to provide adequate protection of food against contamination by flies etc.

Through the co-operation of the confectionery trade, glass counters or display cabinets have been provided for cakes, etc. in all confectionery shops so as to restrict handling or contamination before sale.

ICE-CREAM.

Two premises are registered for manufacture, storage and sale and 18 premises for storage and sale. The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice cream supplied by the larger manufacturers outside the district. All premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

One sample of ice cream was submitted for bacteriological examination and under the provisional grading scheme came under the category of Grade 1.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, four persons are registered as Distributors and two premises registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms). A new dairy was completed during the year and replaced the previously registered premises used for storage of empty milk bottles and unsold bottled milk awaiting return to the main depot.

Four dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two retail Distributor's licences to sell pasteurised milk have been issued.

21 samples of milk were obtained for bacteriological examination for cleanliness, 4 of which proved to be unsatisfactory. The persons concerned were dairy farmers operating from premises outside the district and the cases were referred to the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee for attention. 16 Samples of milk were also submitted for biological examination and proved negative to the tubercle test.

Owing to temporary closure to outside bodies of the Pathological Department at Barrow from 1st July to 1st November, it has been necessary to restrict the number of samples of milk and ice-cream for examination.

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. T. HAGUE.
J. K. YATES.

Sanitary Inspectors.

